

## Claims

1. A discharge tube comprising
  - an insulator tube (2, 52) having an inner face (3, 53) and an outer face (4, 54),
  - an inner electrode (10, 60) which consists of a flexible laminar material and which is in contact with the inner face (3, 53),
  - an outer electrode (9, 59) which is in contact with the outer face (4, 54),
  - a spring element (11, 61) comprising at least one piece of metal wire which, at least along part of the length of the inner electrode (10, 60), is in contact therewith and loads same towards the inner face (3, 53).
2. A discharge tube according to claim 1,

characterised in

that the metal wire, along the entire length of the inner electrode (10), is in contact therewith and loads same against the inner face (3).

3. A discharge tube according to any one of claims 1 or 2,

characterised in

that the spring element is provided in the form of a helical spring (11).

4. A discharge tube according to claim 3,

characterised in

that, in the untensioned, unmounted condition, the outer diameter of the helical spring (11) is greater than the inner diameter of the inner electrode (10) mounted in the insulator tube (2).

5. A discharge tube according to claims 1 to 4,

characterised in

that there is provided a contact element (70) which, at least along the greatest part of the length of the outer electrode (59), is in electrical contact therewith.

6. A discharge tube comprising

- a insulator tube (52) having an inner face (53) and an outer face (54),
- an inner electrode (60) which is in contact with the inner face (53),
- an outer electrode (59) which is in contact with the outer face (54),
- a contact element (70) which, at least along the greatest part of the length of the outer electrode (59), is in electrical contact therewith.

7. A discharge tube according to claim any one of claims 5 or 6,

characterised in

that the contact element (70) is in electrical contact with the outer electrode (6) along the entire length of same.

8. A discharge tube according to any one of claims 5 to 7,

characterised in

that the contact element (70) is connected to the outer electrode (60) in a material locking way.

9. A discharge tube according to any one of claim 5 to 7,

characterised in

that, at a radial distance from the insulator tube (12), the outer electrode (9)

forms guiding means in which the contact element (70) is accommodated.

10. A discharge tube according to claim 9,

characterised in

that the guiding means (122) are provided in the form of a channel and the contact element (70) in the form of a piece of wire, wherein the contact element (70) is inserted into the guiding means (122).

11. A discharge tube according to claims 1 to 10,

characterised in

that the inner electrode (10) is produced from a woven wire fabric or from a grid.

12. A discharge tube according to any one of claims 1 to 11,

characterised in

that the inner face (3) and the outer face (4) are cylindrical in shape and arranged coaxially relative to the longitudinal axis (1) of the discharge tube.

13. A discharge tube according to claim 12,

characterised in

that the inner electrode (10) and the outer electrode (9) are cylindrical in shape and arranged coaxially relative to the longitudinal axis (1).

14. A discharge tube according to any one of claims 1 to 13,

characterised in

that the outer electrode (9) is produced from a radially expandable woven wire fabric or braided wire fabric in the shape of a hose.

15. A discharge tube according to any one of claims 1 to 14,

characterised in

that the insulator tube (2) is produced from glass, more particularly lime soda glass or borosilicate glass.

16. A discharge tube according to any one of claims 1 to 16,

characterised in

that the insulator tube (2), at a first longitudinal end (5), comprises a base (6) which is produced so as to be integral with the insulator tube (2).

17. A discharge tube according to any one of claims 1 to 16,

characterised in

that the insulator tube (2), at a first longitudinal end (7), comprises an aperture (8).

18. A discharge tube according to claim 17,

characterised in

that the insulator tube (2) is tapered along part of its length towards the aperture.